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MEMORY JOGGERS FOR APRIL

April 2 **Preaching** Dave Thompson **Key Elder** Chris Eriksen Greeters Janet Brown Tom & Ruth Drummond Ushers **Bob & Cathy** Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson Liturgist Heidi Duncan **Sound Booth** David Bauer **Van Driver** Chuck Leggate Communion Gary & Judy Lohnbakken Paige Spalding

Jim Hummel

Linda Luse

Preaching Dave Thompson **Greeters** Thelma Riggs Marge Myhra Betty Ann Nesmith Ushers Diane Noddings Peg Ostlund Carla Bracken Teena Bracken Liturgist Doris Backus **Van Driver** Don Harr **Sound Booth** Jeff Gruizenga Flower Delivery Edna Carlson

April 9th

Palm Sunday Sound Booth Chuck Leggate Flower Delivery Easter Lily's All

April 13th Maundy Thursday

Preaching Dave Thompson **Greeters** Bob & Barbara Muir Ushers Ken & Barb Eichenberger Peggy Wilson Chris Eriksen Liturgist David Sanderson **Communion** Russ & Janet Kline

Sandi Schoenberger Marvin & Janet

Brown

April 16th Preaching Dave Thompson **Key Elder** Heather McLean **Greeters** Meghan Ascheman Carla Bracken Teena Bracken Ushers Pat Clark Cindy Leggate Jo Albin Sharon Mathews Liturgist David Bauer **Van Driver** Don Harr

Preaching To Be Determined **Key Elder** Jeff Gruizenga Greeters Megan Lorentz Kay Doss Lucile Weisbeck Ushers Jim & Louise Graff Margie LaFontaine Denise Hash Liturgist Karla Mahan **Sound Booth Bob Culbertson Van Driver** Heather McLean Flower Delivery Nina LaSeur

April 23rd

To Be Determined **Greeters** Priscilla Laird Carl & Vickie Johnson Ushers Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Marian Shehein Betty Ann Nesmith Lituraist Tonya Appelt **Sound Booth Van Driver** Don Harr **Flower Delivery** Dave & Vicki Thompson

April 30th

Preaching

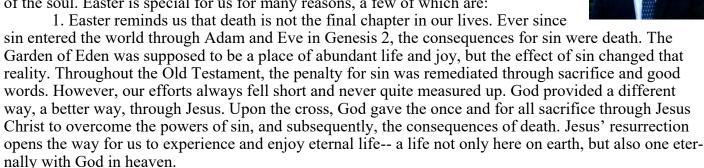
May 7 Preaching Dave Thompson **Key Elder** Chris Eriksen **Greeters** Phyllis Brown Ron Sperry Judy Cuff Ushers Chris Eriksen John Thompson Pat Clark Peggy Wilson Liturgist Marcia Muir **Sound Booth** David Bauer **Van Driver** Chuck Leggate **Communion** Chuck & Cindy Leggate Heather McLean Diane Noddings





"More Than Eggs and Bunnies"

On Sunday, April 16 we will gather for a very important celebration: Easter. For us Christians, Easter is more than eggs and bunnies, baskets and ham; it is the great proclamation that Jesus is Risen! I like to think of Easter as the New Year's Day of the soul. Easter is special for us for many reasons, a few of which are:



- 2. Easter assures us with the living present of God. One of the great promises throughout the Bible is God's assurance that the Lord will not leave or forsake us. No matter how desperate life becomes or how good we have things, God is always there to walk with us. This promise is not realized any more significantly that on Easter when Jesus came forth from the tomb and made his presence known to his followers. Over a period of 40 days Jesus appeared to his followers and assuring them of his presence and promises. We are blessed by this same promise 2,000 years later of a God who walks with us on the mountain top and in the valley.
- 3. Easter reminds us that we are to be people of hope. The headlines in the newspapers and on the news can cause us to lose hope. We live in a world of accidents, tragedies, and pain. There are friends who are dying of cancer, those who are in the midst of relational problems and unexplainable things that cause us to question of faith and doubt God. Yet, as we gather as people of faith,

we realize that in the end victory is imminent. The Apostle Paul, who experienced more than his share of pain, discouragements, and setbacks, writes of this good hope in 1 Corinthians 15:57, "Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

I look forward to Easter and being with you to celebrate this Good News. God is good and his steadfast love endures forever and to all generations. Let us come together and celebrate the victory, hope, and promise of God's blessings on Sunday, April 16 with services offered at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Lenten Lunch & Learn Series continues on Tuesday at 12noon through April 4 Maundy Thursday worship here on Thursday, April 13 at 7 PM Good Friday worship at Peace Lutheran on Friday, April 14 at 7:00 PM Easter Worship - Sunday, April 16 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Easter breakfast and egg hunt provided at 9:15 AM in the fellowship hall New Members' class starting on Sunday, April 30 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room

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Church Info

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am- 4 PM 406-252-3434 mainoffice@fpcbillings.org www.fpcbillings.org Sunday School @ 9:15 AM Worship Celebration @ 10:30

STAFF

Pastor: Dave Thompson Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney **Accompanist: Sandi Rabas Choir Director: Janie Sutton Custodian: Kent Fellingham**

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: **Marlene Spencer**

Class of 2018 **Kathy Baskett Marv Brown** Jeff Gruizenga Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019 Chris Eriksen Jenice Fugere **Chuck Leggate Heather McLean**

Class of 2020 **David Bauer** Carla Bracken Ken Eichenberger **Sharon Lincoln**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Our church was one of the first churches in Billings to designate a monthly Food Bank Sunday. We invite you to bring some non-perishable food items with you on the first Sunday of each month as we help local people in need. Our next Food Bank Sunday will be held on Sunday, April 2. The food bank is always in need of canned vegetables, toiletries, macaroni and canned fruit.

Session Notes:

At the March meeting of the session, the property committee requested additional funds to repair sections of the roof. A donation of a washer and dryer for the downstairs area was also requested.

The Better Together preschool was given permission to use the downstairs area after the fire alarm system has been brought up to code. The directors have agreed to finance half of the cost of this improvement.

The Christian Education Committee reported that they are still searching for a person to work with the youth.

2017 Financial snapshot

	Income	Expense	Net
March	\$ 59,468	\$ 35,513	\$ 23,955
YTD	\$ 139,011	\$ 91,974	\$ 47,037

Special thanks to all who have given to our church during this past year. We have accomplished much through your generosity. A full financial report from 2016 is available through the church office. Per-capita for 2017 is \$48. If you would like to pay your per-capita payment, you can submit a check to the offering plate or church office. Thanks!!

MARCH	2017
ATTENDANCE	
5 тн	189
12тн	176
19тн	225
26тн	195
2017 MARCH AVERAGE	196

Sermons are now back on-line

We were having some technical difficulties in getting sermons to our church's website. The issue has been remedied and we once again have sermons available on our website at www.fpcbillings.org. You can click the "Listen to Sermons" tab on the upper right front of our church's homepage. This allows you to stay connected even when you are away.

Church Mice:

We would like to welcome relatively new members Jean and Gary Schneider to the life of our congregation. Gary is a crew leader for Yellowstone Valley Habitat for Humanity and has worked on a number of the Habitat homes in the Billings area. Jean has become actively involved with our Presbyterian Women's group through a church circle and the Fellowship Committee. We look forward to working more with these two dedicated individuals.

FLOWER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our new 2017 flower sign-up sheet is located on the back table in the narthex. We invite you to sign up for a particular Sunday to sponsor the flowers either in honor or memory of someone or a special event such as an anniversary, birthday, etc. Suggested donation is \$30. Special thanks to Marjorie Stewart, Ken & Barbara Eichenberger, and Juanita Stovall who donated flowers during the month of March. Following worship each Sunday, the flowers are distributed to church members and friends in the hospital, nursing homes, or among those who are unable to attend church.

Building updates and improvements

The session voted at its March meeting to begin work on the roof above Jeanne's office. We have had substantial leaks to this area of the church. The work should be completed in the next several months. In the meantime the roof has been patched to alleviate further leaking.

Washer and dryer needed: Our church is looking for someone(s) to donate a new or gently used washer and dryer to our church. These will be placed downstairs and will be used for Family Promise, youth ministry, and general church functions. We are looking for a basic top load washer and basic electric front load dryer. A washer and dryer will each be in the \$500 range. If you are interested in donating one or the other or both, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Our Church's Leadership Team

Moderator of Session: Pastor Dave Thompson

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Kathy Baskett (2)	Chris Eriksen (2)	David Bauer (2)
Marv Brown (2)	Jenice Fugere (2)	Carla Bracken
Jeff Gruizenga (2)	Chuck Leggate	Ken Eichenberger (2)
Sandi Schoenberger	Heather McLean	Sharon Lincoln (2)

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Janet Brown (2)	Peggy Cluff	Kathy Ramage (2)
Pam Gore (2)	Dodie Cox (2)	Lorrie Rimpe
Ruth Kaufman	Bob Fedric	Paige Spalding (2)
Charlie Pinnick	Janice Ward	Marjorie Stewart (2)

(2) denotes a second consecutive terms that is currently being served.

Two support groups at our church meet monthly. Our Grief Support Group meets the rednesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides halp have first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides help, hope, and healing to those deal- 4 ing with grief and loss.

Our Caregivers Support Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides help to those who care for others.

Both groups are open to anyone in the church and community and both are facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, a retired psychiatrist with a lot of years of experience.

Stephen Ministry Update

We have an active group of Stephen Ministers who are working to help others in our church and community. Each of our church's Stephen Ministers are assigned a care receiver with whom they provide one-onone skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. Stephen Ministry supervision is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM and includes time for continuing education and support. More information about Stephen Ministry is available through one of our church Stephen Ministry leaders who are JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, Shirley Shirley, or Pastor Dave.

New members' class to begin on Sunday, April 30

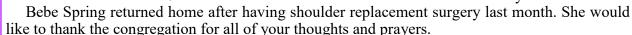
A class for new members will be held on Sundays, April 30 and May 7 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. This class, titled "So What's a Presbyterian?" would be appropriate for anyone wishing to learn more about our denomination, background, and mission. This class will be taught by Pastor Dave. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, May 14.

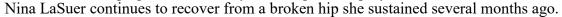
If such a class is of interest to you please talk with Pastor Dave. This class would be appropriate for new people to the church or for those who would like a refresher about who were are as Presbyterians, what we believe, where we came from, and where we are headed.

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On a Personal Note

Vince Larsen passed away at his home under hospice care on March 26. His funeral was held in our church on March 29. We extend our condolences to Louise and her family.





Louise Palm is recovering from a broken pelvis from a fall in January in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Jean Schneider is dealing with several eye issues including a cataract and detached retina.

Dottie Hilger has been hospitalized at St. V's after falling and breaking her pelvis in Arizona last month.

Ed Stauber is hospitalized at St. V's after falling and injuring his knee recently.

Join us after worship on Sunday, April 9 as we have cake to celebrate the birthdays of Sharon Brady, Marlene Spencer, and Peggy Wilson.

Senior Singles to meet on Saturday, April 15

Senior Singles will be meeting on Saturday, April 15 at 10:00 AM at the downtown Perkins Restaurant, located on 27th Street. All singles are invited to join this group which meets monthly. Questions about this group can be directed toward Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
A						1 10 Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG)
2 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	3 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Com- mittee Meeting 6 Billings Child Care Meeting	9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Lenten Lunch & Learn 12 Property Committee Meeting	5 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 12 BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal	6 9-11 BSF 1 Mission Commit- tee Meeting 7 College Group 7 Christian Ed Committee Mtg	7 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	8
9 Palm Sunday 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Birthday cake fol- lowing worship 11 West Park	9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Bible Study in Fireside Room	9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Session Meet- ing	12 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 10 Care givers grp 12 PW Luncheon 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	13 9-11 BSF 7 College Group 7 Maundy Thursday Worship	14 Church Office Closed 7 Good Friday Service at Peace Lutheran Church	15 10 Senior Singles at downtown Perkins
16 Easter Morning 8:30 Worship 9 Brunch and Egg Hunt for the kids 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	9:30 Women's Bible Study (last one till the fall)	19 PW Groups 9-1 Preschool 10 Real Life Group 12 BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	20 9-11 BSF 12 Congregational Care Team 7 College Group	21 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	22
23 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Bible 4 Deacon's Meet- ing	25 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	26 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 12 BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	27 9-11 BSF 11 Fellowship Committee 7 College Group	28 9-1 Preschool Church Office Closed	29
30 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship 11 West Park					2017	

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Presbyterian Women Praise Luncheon will be celebrate

The Presbyterian Women's Praise Luncheon will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 12 at 12noon in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to come and celebrate God's many blessings. Please talk with Marlene Spencer if you have any questions.

The PW Circles meet the third Wednesday of each month for study and fellowship. If you have an interest in joining a circle, please talk with Marlene or Betty Nesmith.

The PW Board will be meeting on Wednesday, April 9 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Sunday school classes

Sunday school for all ages continue for children, youth, and adults. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all with join us!

Classes for Children and Youth

Kindergarten through 5th grade: This class meets at 9:15 AM

Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and

Heidi

PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday school during our worship service is held every week after the children's sermon. A variety of teachers lead this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

With the growing number of children attending Sunday school during worship we will be offering two classes this fall during worship. Additional teachers are needed for this growing program. If interested in helping teach, please talk with Robyn Bauer.

Special Class for Adults:

Pastor Dave and Pastor Marcia Muir continue their six week series on the book of Revelation through April 9. This class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Come and explore this fascinating book that provides intrigue, insight, and speculation. Dave and Marcia will help you get a better understanding of this book, its background, and the wonderful invitation that is extended throughout its chapters.

Church and Society Class for April

Church and Society class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Church and Society Room. The group hosts a different guest every week in relation to issues pertaining to church and society.

APRIL 2 Ed Kemmick, editor of the Last Best News will speak about "Fake News—What are the Implications?" There has always been some bias in the media, some distortion, some sloppiness, and some outright errors. But now, thanks mainly to the internet, we have a new kind of 'fake news,' a troubling development with implications for culture, religion, politics, and the future of a democratic society. A reporter, editor, and columnist in Montana for most of the last 37 years, Ed began 'Last Best News,' an independent online newspaper three years ago that has a daily readership of 2000. He received the National Journalist of the Year in 2002 when at the Billings Gazette.

APRIL 9 Tom Keightley, Crime Prevention Officer for the Billings Police Department. Tom will give an update on the current state of crime and law enforcement in Billings. He will also provide ideas about personal safety and how to prevent becoming a victim. With over 80 Bible verses related to law enforcement, Tom will also discuss the police chaplain's program provided by the department.

APRIL 16 No Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday

APRIL 23 Gene Jarussi, lawyer with Bishop, Heenan, and Davies Law Firm, will discuss "Our Christian Principles, The Law, and A Court Case." As Christians in Montana, do we care that our politicians comply with our campaign finance laws? And if they don't comply, are we brave enough to hold them accountable? Is our political system being undermined by corporations and politicians who fail to follow our Montana law? Gene Jarussi, a retired Billings attorney, came out of retirement to handle five such cases—one of which was tried before a Montana jury in late March of 2016. These cases center on Montana's campaign finance laws that prohibit corporate contributions and require all contributions to be reported to the Commission of Political Practices. Mr. Jarussi will explain how the evidence was collected, what was presented to the jury, and the final verdict in the case tried last spring.

APRIL 30 Dr. Terry Bouck, Superintendent of School District 2 will be our guest. Jesus was addressed directly 90 times in the gospels, 60 of which he was called "teacher." Superintendent Bouck will give an overview of the Billings school system, including the challenges and successes. With the upcoming bond issue he will discuss improvements to be made if it passes.



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Youth News:

Thanks to all who helped with the Youth Basket Auction on Sunday, March 19 following worship. A delicious lunch was served and \$5,475 was raised for our youth and college ministry programs. Special thanks to all who donated and purchased baskets and to Russ & Janet Kline, Lee & Amanda Webber, Jody Ferestad, Heather McLean, and all the rest who assisted with the meal and event.



6-12 grade youth are invited and encouraged to join us each week for youth group on Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM. Friends are always invited. A few more meals are needed for the remainder of the spring semester. Our meal sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the Fireside Room door. Please help provide a meal on a Wednesday evening.

Special thanks to those who provided meals for our youth group during the month of March. They were Dan & Karen Gall, Jeff & Kerry Gruizenga, Russ Kline, Dave & Vicki Thompson, Jim & Heidi Duncan, and Cherrie McRae.

Look for summer camping information on the shelf near Jeanne's office. A full schedule is provided in the pamphlet of all of the camps offered this summer through our Presbytery.

50 Year Members recognized recently

Our congregation is composed of a diversity of individuals representing a cross section of age, gender, social and economic groups. We are fortunate to have numerous people who across 50 years of continuous membership have provided us individually and collectively with this same diverse talent and dedication. Thank you all for your contributions to First Presbyterian Church.

During the worship service on February 26, the Presbyterian Women honored members who have been members of our church for fifty or more continuous years. Those who were honored were: Tom and Ruth Drummond, Don and Shirley Harr, Virginia and Tom Helmer, Barbara and Bob Muir, Priscilla Laird, Roxanne Fogerty, Pat Clark, Diane Noddings, Mary Lou Jacobson, Agnes Havig, JoAnn Jones, Marge Pemble, Kay Doss, Bobbi Lauwers, Bonnie Grosshuesch, Bebe Spring, Judith Wallinder, Lucile Weisbeck, Lois Dyce, Mary Wempner, Joan Corning, Royal Johnson, John Stewart, Bill Dimich, Boyd Strissel, John Reamy, Charlie Reed, George Rosenfeld. Barbara Gullard has been a member for 71 years and June Pierce Joined our congregation 70 years

Men's group

Our men's group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 12noon in the Fireside Room. Join other men for a time of encouragement, fellowship, prayer, and study. This group is currently studying the New Testament book of Hebrews which encourages Christians to remain faithful to God in all circumstances. For more information about this group, please talk with Paston Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 10 at 12noon.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee Mission Committee Christian Education Worship Committee Session Meeting PW Board Meeting Congregational Care Team **Deacons Meeting** Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, April 4 at 12 (noon) Thursday, April 6 at 1:00 PM Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 PM Monday, April 10 at 10:00 AM Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 PM Wednesday, April 12 at 9:30AM Thursday, April 20 at 12 (noon) Monday, April 24 at 4:00 PM Thursday, April 27 at 11:00 AM

Prayer Garden library is open and ready

Our new outside library, located in our Prayer Garden, is open and ready to be used. This newly refurbished "garden" is located near the downstairs doors, to the right of the main entry door. Sharon Brady recently placed some books inside the library deposit box for people to use. You can take a book and leave a book at your discretion. We invite you to use the prayer garden as a place of prayer, study, and quiet reflection. Several benches are in the garden for you use.

April Birthdays

- Chuck Maris
- Judy Nusbaum
- 8 Kyle Erickson **Bobbie Koch** Jean Embley
- 10 Albert Hessler
- 14 Trina White
- 17 Charleene Hayes Dodie Cox
- 18 Sharon Brady Marlene Spencer Peggy Wilson Lily Goettel

- 19 David Culbertson
- 21 Sarah Repka 24 Sharon Henderson
- 27 Kevin Nagel
- 28 Mary Carey
- 29 Mikél Erickson

Anniversaries

- 6 John & Carol Limbach
- 9 Kurt & Mary Grabow
- 17 Scott & Greta Murray



Mission News

Some time ago, Peace Lutheran Church started a food pantry to help feed some of our hungry neighbors. The need has grown and grown. Bernie Mason and Pastor Will Sappington from Peace Lutheran came to our Mission Committee meeting and shared information about this ministry. They serve the disabled, seniors, unemployed, Native Americans, and individuals from all over Billings. They are open 2 or 3 hours each week day. There were over 4,000 visitors in 2016. Therefore, the church has a sign-in-desk to make sure there are no abuses to the system. St. Pius X, St. Johns, Peace Lutheran, and First Presbyterian are the main supporters of the pro-



gram. They could use more volunteers to work the desk (2 hours per day). The Peace Lutheran pantry is open the following hours and they need volunteers to help at these times. Monday from 1-3 PM; Thursday from 10-12 AM; Friday from 2-4 PM. They are also opened on Tuesday and Wednesday but don't need volunteers those days. The committee will give \$750 per quarter for this year to Peace Lutheran for their food pantry needs

We voted to be one of the 12 church sponsors (\$2,000 each) for a Habitat House in Billings this year. The house will be build this summer and volunteer assistance will be needed. More information will be coming about this special project.

We will also support our friends at Family Promise with a check for \$1,500.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." —Romans 15:13

Holy Week Events: Join us for the following events leading up to Easter!

Come and take the Holy Week Challenge during this week leading up to Easter. We invite you to attend all of the services of this week that will take you through the last week of Jesus' life. From the celebration on Palm Sunday as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem, to his sharing the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, to his death on the cross on Good Friday, to the resurrection on Easter Sunday, come and journey with Jesus. Here is the schedule for Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday service will be held at our church on Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 PM Good Friday ecumenical worship will be held at Peace Lutheran on Friday, April 14 at 7:00 PM Early Easter worship will be held at our church on Easter Sunday, April 16 at 8:30 AM Easter brunch provided by the youth group will begin at 9:15 AM on Easter Sunday. It's free!! Easter worship Celebration will be held on Easter Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 AM

Special recital to be held on Sunday, April 9 at 3:00 PM

Michelle Berger (Mezzo Soprano), Sandi Rabas (pianist), and Eric Andries (guest pianist) will present "From Classical to Broadway." This recital will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 3:00 PM in the church's sanctuary and will feature the works by Brahms, Bernstein, and Bizet. A wide variety of musical genres from Broadway shows, Gershwin, and spirituals will be performed. Join us for this special presentation.